GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5903
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2001
FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAMME
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Committee of Chief Ministers` was held in July, 2001 to discussthe issues pertaining to the restructuring of the food-for-work programme and repeal of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decisions taken to implement the food-for-work programme more effectively so that its benefit reach the genuinely needy persons?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a): Yes, Sir. Implementation of the Food for Work Programme and review of EssentialCommodities Act and Control Orders issued under the Act to ensure free movement of agricultural commodities were among the items discussed in the meeting.

(b) The Food for Work Programme was started in 2001 as part of the EAS, in eight droughtaffected States viz. Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra,Orissa, Rajasthanand Uttranchal. The programme aims at generating wage employment and income in the drought affected rural areas as notified by the Ministry of Agriculture.

As per the revised guidelines, the Food for Work Programme has since been expanded soas to cover other natural calamities like flood, cyclone and earthquake. The Programme wasearlier to have ended by 30 June, 2001 but has now been extended upto 30 September, 2001. Under the programme, the Government of India are to make available appropriate quantity offoodgrains to each of the affected States as an additionality and free of cost, with a view to enable the affected States to provide adequate wage employment opportunities to the needy rural poor. The States may make payment of wages partly in kind (upto 5 kg. foodgrains per man per day) and partly in cash.

The eligibility criteria under the programme includes both BPL and APL families. TheState Governments will be free to calculate the cost of the foodgrains paid in wages at either BPL or APL rate or anywhere between these rates.The workers will be paid balance of wages in cash so that they are assured of the payment of minimum prescribed wages. The cash component of the wages and material cost are to be met from the scheme under which the Food for Work Programme is implemented. The cost of the transportation of foodgrains from FCI godown to thework-site/PDS outlets and its distribution is the responsibility of the State Governments.

So far a quantity of 23.42 lakh tonnes has been allocated free of cost to the Statesfor Food for Work Programmes in drought/heavy rain/flood affected areas as per details given in the Annexure.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5903 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 31-8-2001 IN THE LOK SABHA.

ALLOCATION AND OFFTAKE OF FOODGRAINS UNDER FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAMME IN DROUHGT/FLOOD AFF STATES (January, 2001 to date)

(ALLOTTED FREE OF COST) (in tonnes)

	Allotment (Upto 29.8.2001)			Offtake (Prov) (Upto 23.8.2001)		
	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
Andhra Pradesh	300000	0	300000	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	507000	0	507000	407000	0	407000
Gujarat	31590	116515	148105	22771	76892	99663

Himachal Pradesh	11549	0	11549	7286	0	7286
Karnataka	57460	42540	100000	0	0	0
Maharashtra	10000	40000	50000	5110	14368	19478
Madhya Pradesh	55254	175705	230959	39095	123846	162941
Orissa	250000	0	250000	131815	14617	146432
Rajashthan	0	739505	739505	0	477441	477441
Kerala	5000	0	5000	0	0	0
TOTAL	1227853	1114265	2342118	613077	707164	1320241

IN CASE OF ORISSA WHEAT ALLOCATION OF 20,000 TONNES HAS BEEN CONVERTED INTO RICE ALLOCATION BUT 14617 TONNES OF LIFTING OF WHEAT HAS BEEN REPORTED.